Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method of identifying and/or verifying hardware and/or software of an appliance ~~(23)~~ and of a data carrier ~~(9)~~ which is provided to cooperate with the appliance, comprising the following steps:

_ transmitting first authorization data of the hardware and/or software to a first unit ~~(E 1),~~

_ comparing the first authorization data of the hardware and/or software that has been transmitted to the first unit ~~(E1)~~ with first verification data stored in the first unit ~~(E1),~~

_ authorizing the hardware and/or software once it has been ascertained that there is coincidence between the first authorization data provided by the hardware and/or software and the first verification data stored in the first unit ~~(E1),~~

_ transmitting second authorization data of a data carrier ~~(9)~~ to a second unit ~~(E2),~~

_ comparing the second authorization data in the second unit ~~(E2)~~ with second verification data stored in the second unit ~~(E2),~~

_ authorizing the data carrier ~~(9)~~ if there is coincidence between the second authorization data and the second verification data stored in the second unit ~~(E2),~~

_ wherein a direct data exchange is carried out between the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2).~~

2. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the direct data exchange between the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2)~~ comprises a transmission of encrypted data and a comparison and/or decryption of data transmitted between the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2).~~

3. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein the data exchange between the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2)~~ is carried out prior to an identification and/or verification of first authorization data of the hardware and/or software and of second authorization data of the data carrier ~~(9).~~

4. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1,2 or 3~~claim 1, wherein a central arithmetic unit ~~(2)~~ of the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and a central arithmetic unit ~~(10) oftheof the~~ second unit ~~(E2)~~ jointly access at least one ROM memory ~~(18),~~ one RAM memory ~~(19)~~ and/or one non-volatile memory ~~(20).~~

5. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein encryption ~~(6,14)~~ of the first authorization data and of the second authorization data is carried out in the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and in the second unit ~~(E2).~~

6. *(Currently Amended)* A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the second authorization data are obtained from a smartcard or a tag or a label that forms the data carner ~~(9).~~

7. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit for identifying and/or verifying hardware and/or software of an appliance ~~(23)~~ and of a data carrier ~~(9)~~ which is provided to cooperate with the appliance, comprising:

- a first unit ~~(E1)~~ for identifying and/or verifying the hardware and/or software of the appliance, comprising a central arithmetic unit ~~(2)~~ and at least one memory ~~(3, 4, 5, 18, 19,20)~~ and an interface ~~(7, 22)~~ to the hardware and/or software that is to be identified and/or verified, and
- a second unit ~~(E2),~~ comprising a central arithmetic unit ~~(10)~~ and at least one

memory ~~(11, 12, 13, 18, 19,20)~~ and an interface ~~(16)~~ to an external data carrier ~~(9)~~ and also an interface ~~(15)~~ to the hardware and/or software,

- wherein a communication interface ~~(17)~~ is provided between the central arithmetic units ~~(2, 10)~~ of the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2).~~

8. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the memories of the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and of the second unit ~~(E2)~~ are formed by a ROM memory ~~(3, 11, 18)~~ and a RAM memory ~~(4, 12, 19)~~ and/or a non-volatile memory ~~(5, 13,20).~~

9. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in ~~claim 7 or 8~~claim 7, wherein the ROM memories and/or the RAM memories and/or the non-volatile memories of the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and of the second unit ~~(E2)~~ are in each case combined to form a common ROM memory ~~(18)~~ and/or a common RAM memory ~~(19)~~ and/or a common non-volatile memory ~~(20)~~.

10. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~claim 7, wherein the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the second unit ~~(E2)~~ in each case comprise an encryption device ~~(6, 14)~~.

11. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 10~~claim 7, wherein the central arithmetic unit of the first unit ~~(E1)~~ and the central arithmetic unit of the second unit ~~(E2)~~ are combined to form a common central arithmetic unit ~~(21)~~, which common central arithmetic unit ~~(21)~~ has the integrated communication interface, and wherein the common central arithmetic unit ~~(21)~~ is connected by an interface ~~(22)~~ to the hardware and/or software that is to be identified and/or verified.

12. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 11~~claim 7, wherein the interface ~~(16)~~ to the external data carrier ~~(9)~~ is designed for contactless communication with the external data carrier ~~(9)~~.

13. *(Currently Amended)* A circuit as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 12~~claim 7, wherein the external data carrier ~~(9)~~ is formed by a smartcard or a tag or a label.

14. *(Currently Amended)* An appliance which comprises as hardware at least one central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~, which central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~ is designed to run software and to obtain data from an external data carrier ~~(9)~~ cooperating with the appliance, wherein a circuit ~~(1)~~ as claimed in ~~any of claims 7 to 13~~claim 7 is coupled to the central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~.

15. *(Currently Amended)* An appliance as claimed in claim 14, wherein the central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~ of the appliance ~~(23)~~ is coupled via an interface integrated

in the central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~ of the appliance to the circuit ~~(1, 8M)~~ integrated in the central arithmetic unit ~~(8)~~.